ORIGIN ACTION: ARA-10

RM/R	REP	AF
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ARA	EUR	FE
NEA	CU	INR 6
E	P	IC 5
PM	AESI	
2	1	AID

RSLATH-HALL-26

AGR	COM	FRB
INT	LAB	TAR
TR	XMB	AIR 5
ARMY 3	CIA 16	NAVY 5
OSD 34	USIA	NSA 3
Pass-1		NSC 6

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Pol 23-2 Guat

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

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A-205 NO.

CONFIDENTIAL EXDIS CLASSIFICATION

Cons HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

DEPT PASS: CINCSO FOR POLAD

Panama

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS SEP 22 1970

SEP 20 1 04 PM '70

FROM : Amembassy GUATEMALA DATE: September 18, 1970

SUBJECT: INTERNAL SECURITY: Monthly Report of Incidents, August, 1970

REF :

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDR/IR Pol 23-2 Guat

REVIEWED BY Ecy DATE OCT 1991

PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

SUMMARY: The new Administration has continued to enjoy a prolonged honeymoon. Neither the FAR nor the PGT seriously challenged the new government during the month under review for a variety of reasons [redacted] However, there were significant incidents which included several assassinations and bombing attempts. A general decline in violence in the San Marcos region toward the end of the month probably can be attributed to the physical presence of army patrols and Civic Action units.

* * *

The most important incident occurred on the morning of August 19 when Santos Miguel LIMA Bonilla, retired Army Lt. Colonel and former third chief of the National Police, was assassinated in Zone 2 shortly after leaving his home. The assailants escaped in a blue Fiat. The press reported receipt of a PGT/FAR bulletin claiming credit for the assassination [redacted] LIMA Bonilla had received several previous threats from terrorists who held him responsible for ordering police to fire into a group of students during a demonstration in June, 1956, killing five people. The day after LIMA Bonilla's murder, Minister of Government Jorge ARENALES Catalan told the press the Government was "very concerned" over the recent acts of violence "by groups without a cause" and promised that the Government would take "every means at its disposal within the law" to apprehend the culprits. This was the most significant political assassination in Guatemala City that the new Government has been faced with.

On August 7, two Ministry of Hacienda guards were shot and killed in front of the home of the Chief of the Hacienda police in Guatemala City. On

Enclosure: Chart of Incidents

FORM 4-62 DS-323

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Drafted by: POL:GWOgles:rmm:9/17/70

Contents and Classification Approved by: POL:LAPetzullo

Clearances:

POL: [redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

August 17, the deputy mayor of Ixcaudic, San Marcos, and two companions were killed with 9mm and .45 caliber weapons and subsequently dumped in the town square with notes (El Guerrillero) attached from the FAR. On August 21, a representative of the centrist Confederation of Guatemalan Workers, an affiliate of the CTF, also serving as deputy mayor of "La Aurora" Escuintla, was killed by five armed men who dragged him from his home; a number of MR-13 and FAR flyers were found with the body. And on August 19 one person was killed and six wounded when a group of armed men in army uniforms attempted to assassinate the MLN deputy mayor of Santa Rosalia, Zacapa.

On August 13, two municipalities in Escuintla were without telephone and telegraph services for several hours after saboteurs cut the lines serving the area. A bomb exploded on the night of August 18 partially destroying a railroad communication substation in Guatemala City. No injuries were reported.

Police frustrated another bombing attempt in Guatemala City when they arrested Marco Antonio RUANO Duarte and Alfredo MARQUEZ for plotting to bomb the home of an unnamed Guatemalan Government official.

The second half of August saw a marked decline in the number of incidents in San Marcos, a region previously scarred by violence related to smuggling and guerrilla activities. The decline in violence can probably be attributed to the presence of the Army which has been patrolling the area with regularity in recent weeks. An active Civic Action program in the area is being tied in with the military activities. LA NACION printed a full page story highlighting the treatment of some 1,800 people in Catarina, San Marcos by a Civic Action medical team.

COMMENT: President Arana has been both lucky and clever. Because everyone expected the new administration to crack down with a blitzkrieg on the terrorists, no one, especially the FAR and PGT, has known quite what to make of the detente of the last two months. During August, the guerrillas did not initiate a confrontation. Hard line rightist elements in the new government are being restrained by President Arana. Yet forces are at work in both camps for the resumption of hostilities.

DAVIS

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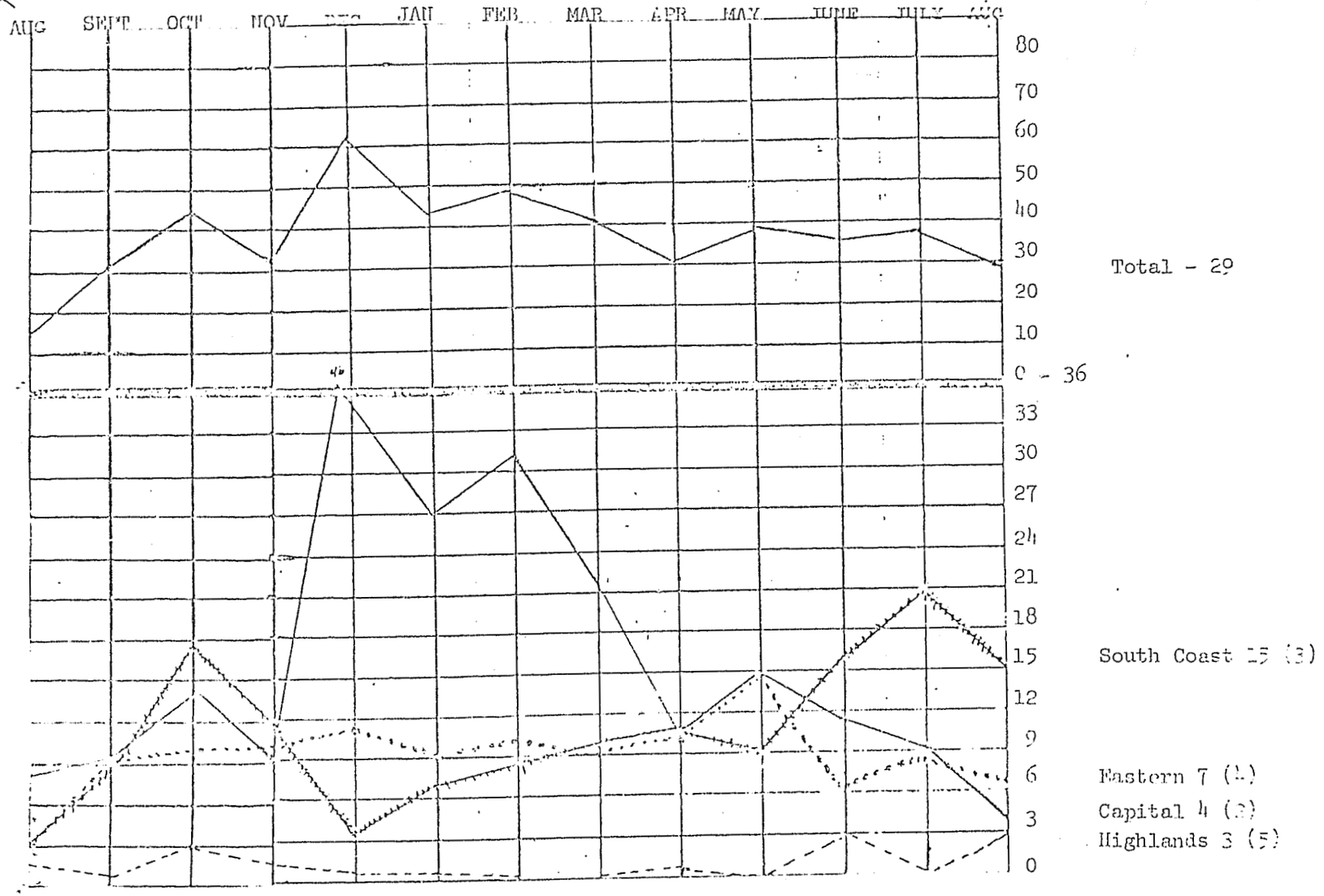
MONTHLY FREQUENCY OF TERRORIST RELATED INCIDENTS BY REGION (1) AUGUST 1969 - AUGUST 1970



1. For purposes of this graph, acts of violence include shootings, bombings and assassinated bodies.
2. Capital Area: Sacatepequez, Guatemala
3. South Coast: San Marcos, Quezaltenango, Retalhuleu, Suchitepequez, Escuintla, Santa Rosa
4. Eastern Region: Jutiapa, El Progreso, Jalapa, Zacapa, Chiquimula, Izabal
5. Highlands: Totonicapan, Chimaltenango, Huehuetenango, El Quiche, Baja Verapaz, Solola

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